

WI-577
William J. Ennis House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1896

Contrasting with many common asymmetrical tee- or ell-shaped designs of Victorian dwellings in the Newtown neighborhood is the symmetrically planned William J. Ennis house, a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall dwelling erected around 1896. The double-pile main block was built with a balanced East William Street façade with matching gables that flank a center dormer. The front corners of the house were cut on a forty-five degree angle to provide an interesting multi-sided appearance to the principal elevation. Typical of the late nineteenth century are the extended eaves, fishscale shingles, and two-over-two sash windows. Attached to the east side is a single-story bay window, another common feature of Victorian dwellings.

William J. Ennis is credited with financing the construction of this dwelling around 1896 when he acquired a lot on the north side of East William Street from Margaret E. Parsons in March 1896. Ennis paid \$500 for the lot, which indicates the property was unimproved at the time. Identified as a carpenter in the 1907 Salisbury City directory, he is listed with his wife Mary. In October 1907 William J. Ennis sold the house and lot to James R. and Pansey E. Taylor for \$4,000. James R. Taylor retained ownership of the property through the balance of his life and conveyed the title to his daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Johnson, in 1950. Sarah and her husband Sanford G. Johnson held the house and lot until 1962.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-577

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic William J. Ennis House

other James R. Taylor House

2. Location

street and number 111 East William Street not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Elton W. Harrington, Jr. and Sharon G. Harrington

street and number 111 East William Street telephone 410-749-2183

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1057 folio 379

city, town Salisbury tax map 107 tax parcel 681 tax ID number 5-010241

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	_____
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-577

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The William J. Ennis house, also known as the James R. Taylor house, stands at 111 East William Street in the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house faces south with the principal roof axis oriented east/west.

Built around 1896, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall plan house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The double-pile house is served by internal brick stacks finished with corbelled caps.

The south (main) elevation is a three-bay façade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows hung with louvered shutters. The front door has a louvered outer door, which is framed by four-light sidelights and a five-light transom. The first floor is sheltered by an early twentieth-century hip roofed front porch supported on paneled square posts with rectangular baluster handrails. Distinctive to the south façade are angled outer corners pierced by multi-paned windows. The second floor is defined by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The hip roof is distinguished by a pair of cross gables on either side of a single gable roofed dormer. The roof edges of the gables and dormer are extended with open soffits and exposed rafter ends. The fronts of gables and dormer are sheathed with fishscale shingles around two-over-two sash windows. Fixed under the corners of the roof are modest Victorian eave brackets.

The east side features a single-story bay window in the southeast opening. The bay window is pierced by tripartite window of single-pane sash on its east face and single one-over-one sash windows on the north and south sides. The adjacent bay is defined by a two-over-two sash window. Lighting the second floor is a pair of two-over-two sash windows. Centered on the roof is a cross gable featuring extended eaves and open soffits. The gable is sheathed with fishscale shingles, and it is pierced by a two-over-two attic sash.

The west side has pairs of two-over-two sash windows on the first and second floors, and a cross gable marks the hip roof. The cross gable is sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by a two-over-two sash window.

Attached to the north (rear) elevation is a single-story shed roofed addition.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-577

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Contrasting with the common asymmetrical tee- and ell-shaped designs of Victorian dwellings in the Newtown neighborhood is the symmetrically designed William J. Ennis house, a two-and-a-half story, three-bay center hall dwelling erected around 1896. The double-pile main block was built with a balanced East William Street façade with matching gables that flank a center dormer. The front corners of the house were cut on a forty-five degree angle to provide an interesting appearance to the principal elevation. Typical of the late nineteenth century are the extended eaves, fishscale shingles, and two-over-two sash windows. Attached to the east gable end is a bay window, another common feature of Victorian dwellings.

William J. Ennis is credited with financing the construction of this dwelling around 1896 when he acquired a lot on the north side of East William Street from Margaret E. Parsons in March 1896.¹ Ennis paid \$500 for the lot, which indicates the property was unimproved at the time. Identified as a carpenter in the 1907 Salisbury City directory, he is listed with his wife Mary.² In October 1907 William J. Ennis sold the house and lot to James R. and Pansey E. Taylor for \$4,000.³ James R. Taylor retained ownership of the property through the balance of his life and conveyed title to his daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Johnson, in 1950.⁴ Sarah and her husband Sanford G. Johnson held the house and lot until 1962.⁵

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 17/473, 23 March 1896.

² Neill Keddie, ed. Salisbury City Directory, 1907, p. 17.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 56/237, 7 October 1907.

⁴ Wicomico County Will Book, JAH 5/584, 6 February 1950.

⁵ Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 550/71, 7 September 1962.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-577

Name William J. Ennis House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

William J. Ennis House
111 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 681

1057/379

S. G. Tyler
Catherine A. Tyler

to

1/31/1986

Elton W. Harrington, Jr.
Sharon C. Harrington

AJS 902/1

Cora Melissa Harmeson Shores, Personal Representative
of the estate of Mary Anne Harmeson

to

7/13/1978

S. G. Tyler
Catherine A. Tyler
\$25,800.

JWTS 550/71

Beatrice C. White
Clarence T. White

to

9/7/1962

Mary Anne Harmeson

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-577

Name William J. Ennis House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

JWTS 538/516

Sarah Elizabeth Johnson
Sanford G. Johnson

to

5/4/1962

Beatrice C. White

Wicomico County
Will Book
JAH 5/584

Last Will and Testament of James R. Taylor

to

2/6/1950

Sarah Elizabeth Johnson

EAT 56/237

William J. Ennis

to

10/7/1907

James R. Taylor
Pansey E. Taylor, his wife
\$4,000

JTT 17/473

Margaret E. Parsons

to

3/23/1896

William J. Ennis
\$500 ...the lot hereby conveyed being a portion of a lot belonging to
Theodore Parsons, late of Wicomico County and devised to the said
Margaret E. Parsons by his last will and testament, 1/2/1873, ELW 1/17

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-577

Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

Wicomico County Probate Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 8,262 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 8,262 square feet
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

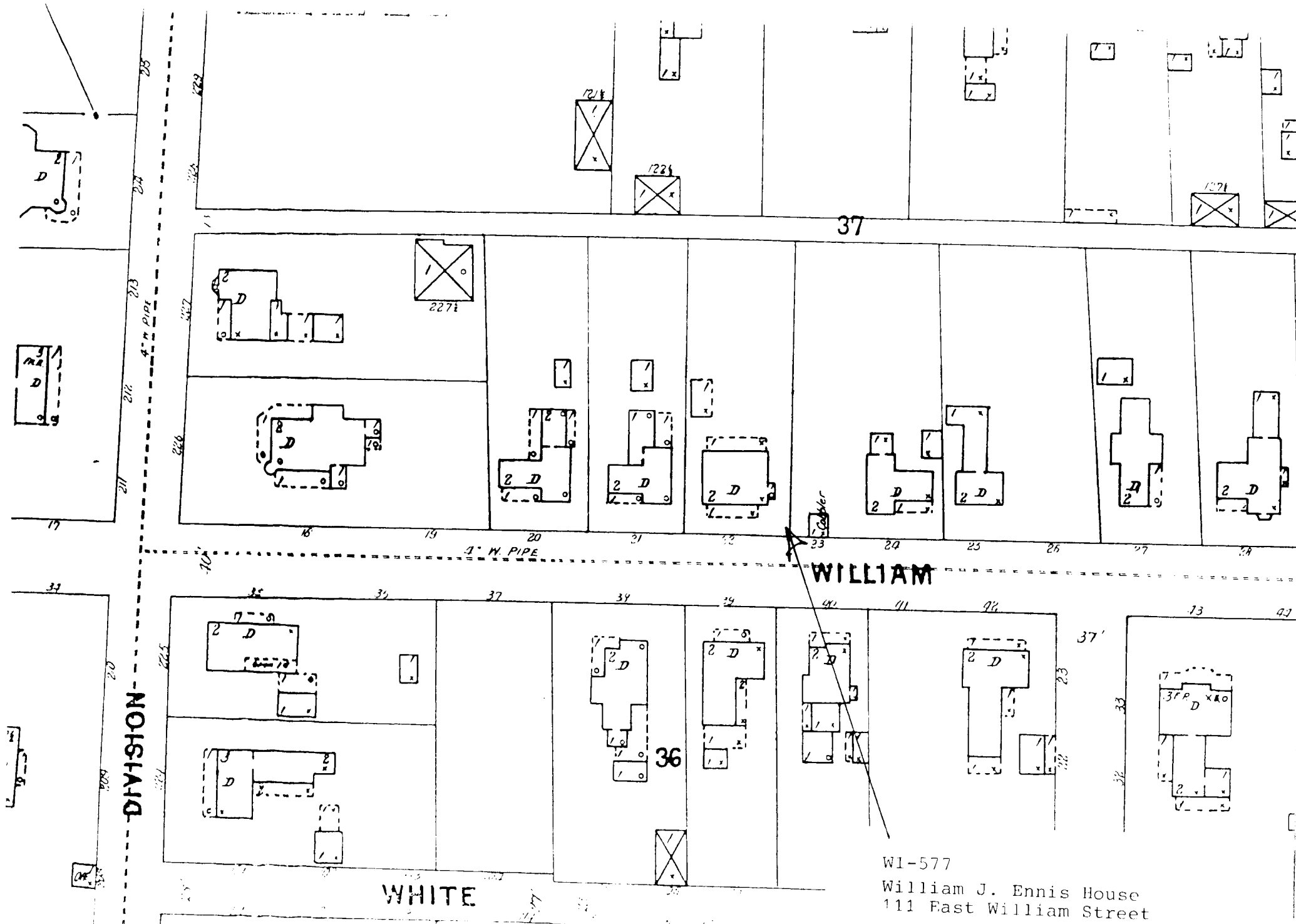
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	7/20/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

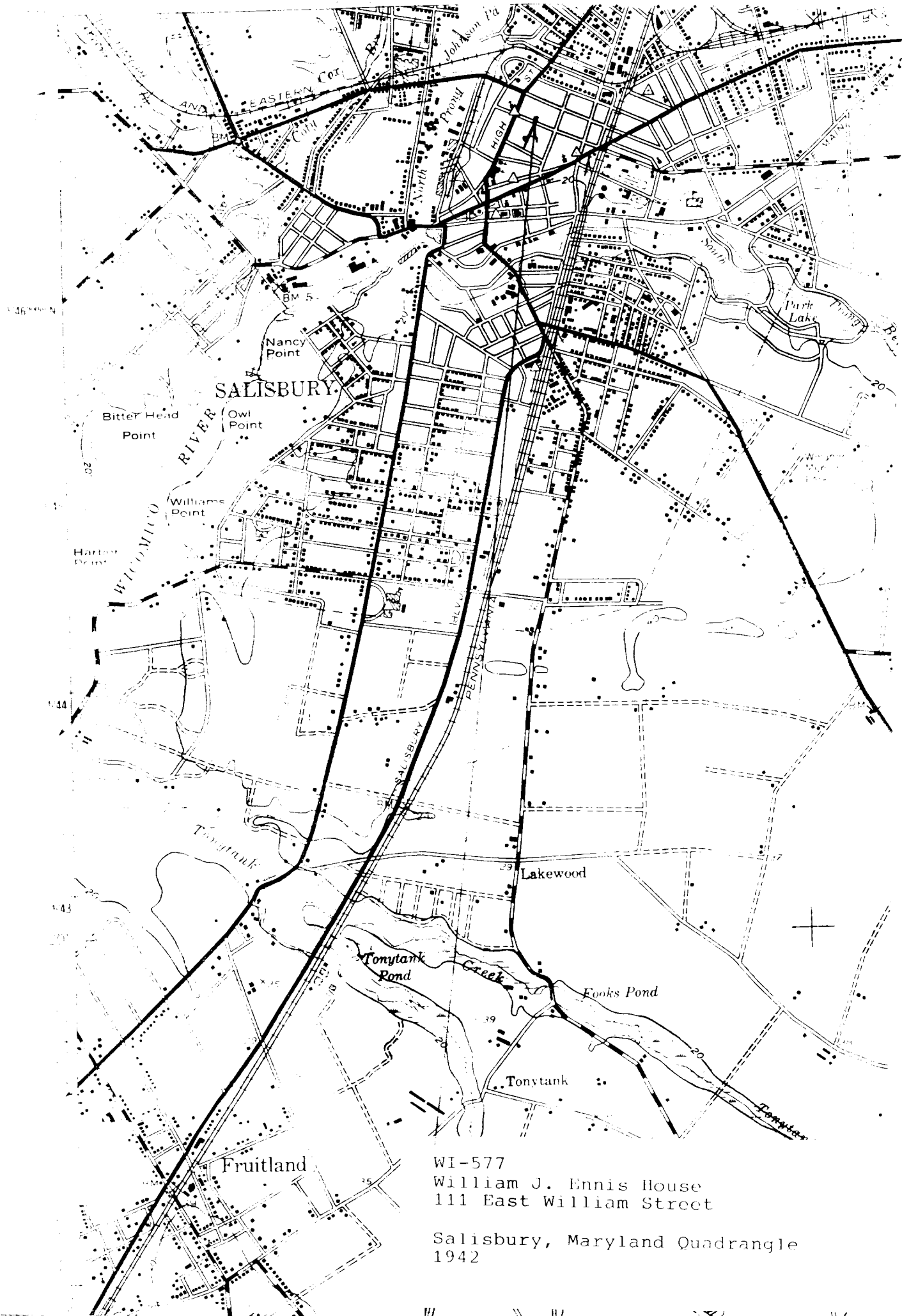
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



W1-577

William J. Ennis House
111 East William Street

Sanborn Insurance Map 1900



WI-577
William J. Ennis House
111 East William Street

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



W1-577

WILLIAM L. ENNIS HOUSE

SALISBURY, WILMINGTON CO., MD

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

7/01, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OR 2



WI-577

WILLIAM J. ENNIS HOUSE

SARISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

7/01, PAUL TOWNES, PITTSBURGH

NEW. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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